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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/720,373 09/27/96 MITCHELL

J 491.003US1

EXAMINER

LM61/0511

SCHWEGMAN LUNDBERG WOESSNER & KLUTH
P O BOX 2938
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402

SMITS, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2741

DATE MAILED:

05/11/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

***Response to Rule 312
Communication***

Application No.
08/720,373

Applicant(s)
John C. Mitchell, et al.

Examiner
Talivaldis Ivars Smits

Group Art Unit
2741



☐ The petition filed on _____ under 37 CFR 1.312(b) is granted. The paper has been forwarded to the examiner for consideration on the merits.

☒ The amendment filed on May 1, 1998 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

☐ entered.

☒ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention (Order 3311).

☐ disapproved. See explanation below.

☐ entered in part. See explanation below.

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.312

1. In response to the Notice of Allowance for the instant Special application, dated March 24, 1998, and prior to the payment of the issue fee, applicant has submitted an **Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.312**, received May 1, 1998, to correct informalities with antecedent bases in claims 67, 71-75, 77, and 79, and to amend the Specification due to the need to divide Figure 9 into Figures 9A and 9B for better legibility, without introducing new matter or requiring any additional search or examination. The examiner has considered applicant's proposed corrections, and found them appropriate, and thus has exercised his discretionary powers to enter the Amendment with said corrections or changes in the claims, drawings and the Specification.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement submitted on May 1, 1998 was filed after the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance for the instant Special application and prior to the payment of the issue fee. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 *et seq.*, by having the appropriate Certification and Petition along with the Petition fee. Accordingly, the petition was granted by the Supervising Patent Examiner of the Art Unit, and the Information Disclosure Statement has been considered by the examiner.

Conclusion

3. **Any response to this allowance should be mailed to:**

Box Issue Fee

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or FAXed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE")

or:

(703) 305-9508 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to the examiner, Talivaldis Ivars Smits, whose telephone number is (703) 306-3011. The examiner can normally be reached Mondays-Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Hudspeth, can be reached on (703) 308-4825. The facsimile phone number for this Art Unit is (703) 305-9508. With the consolidation into Technology Center 2700, effective November 16, 1997, the former Art Unit 2308 has become **Art Unit 2741**.

Serial Number: 08/720,373
Art Unit: 2741 (formerly 2308)

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Dr. Talivaldis Ivars Smits
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2741
May 4, 1998



DAVID R. HUDSPETH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700